

princes for the realisation of his policy. He won over the Brunswick dukes, the elector and the Margrave of Brandenburg, and, most potent of all, Duke Maurice of Saxony, whom he bribed with the offer of his cousin's electoral dignity and territories. He disarmed the apprehensions of John Frederick by his pacific professions. He detached the Duke of Bavaria, who had from political motives supported the league, from his old confederates. He could appeal, too, to what was left of national spirit to support the crusade against those who, in repudiating the authority of the Imperial Government and a General Council as well as that of the pope, were reducing the empire to anarchy. The emperor stood for constituted authority; his opponents, he urged, for mere rebellion. By so doing he succeeded in shifting the religious aspect of the quarrel into the background, and it was for treason rather than for heresy that he at length proclaimed John Frederick and Philip under the imperial ban on 20th July 1546, and set his army in motion against them. In reality the contest was both political and religious. Charles drew the sword, as he told his son and his sister, to vindicate the Catholic faith as well as his own authority. John Frederick and Philip were the representatives of Protestantism as well as territorial princely power.

Charles proved superior to the Protestants in military tactics as in statecraft. The Protestant army at Donauworth was at first by far the stronger, but indecision and divided councils let slip the chance of overwhelming the emperor before reinforcements could join him from Italy and the Netherlands at Landshut and Ingolstadt (August-September 1546). This inaction gave time, too, for the development of the grand *coup* that ruined the Protestant cause—the defection of Maurice, who seized the elector's dominions, and forced him to hasten northwards to the rescue, leaving the southern cities and magnates (the Elector Palatine and the Duke of Wurtemberg among them) no alternative but to submit. In this crisis the landgrave showed some of his old energy, and, though John Frederick succeeded in wresting both the electorate and the duchy from the traitor Maurice, his success was cut short by the rapid advance of the emperor northwards and the rout of the Saxon army at Muhlberg on the 24th.